

A brick wall on the left side of a blue background. The bricks are reddish-brown with white mortar lines. The wall is partially visible, extending from the left edge towards the center of the frame.

Building Java Programs

Chapter 3: Parameters, Return, and Interactive Programs

Lecture outline

- parameters
 - passing parameters to static methods
 - writing methods that accept parameters

A brick wall is visible on the left side of the slide, extending from the bottom to the top. The bricks are reddish-brown with white mortar. The background is a solid blue color.

Parameters

reading: 3.1

Redundant recipes

- Recipe for baking **20** cookies:
 - Mix the following ingredients in a bowl:
 - **4** cups flour
 - **1** cup butter
 - **1** cup sugar
 - **2** eggs
 - **1** bag chocolate chips
 - ...
 - Place on sheet and Bake for about 10 minutes.
- Recipe for baking **40** cookies:
 - Mix the following ingredients in a bowl:
 - **8** cups flour
 - **2** cups butter
 - **2** cups sugar
 - **4** eggs
 - **2** bags chocolate chips
 - ...
 - Place on sheet and Bake for about 10 minutes.

Parameterized recipe

- Recipe for baking **40** cookies:
 - Mix the following ingredients in a bowl:
 - **8** cups flour
 - ...
- Recipe for baking **N** cookies:
 - Mix the following ingredients in a bowl:
 - **N/5** cups flour
 - **N/20** cups butter
 - **N/20** cups sugar
 - **N/10** eggs
 - **N/20** bags chocolate chips
 - ...
 - Place on sheet and Bake for about 10 minutes.
- **parameter**: A value that distinguishes similar tasks.
- **parameterize**: To express a set of similar tasks in a general way in terms of one or more parameters.

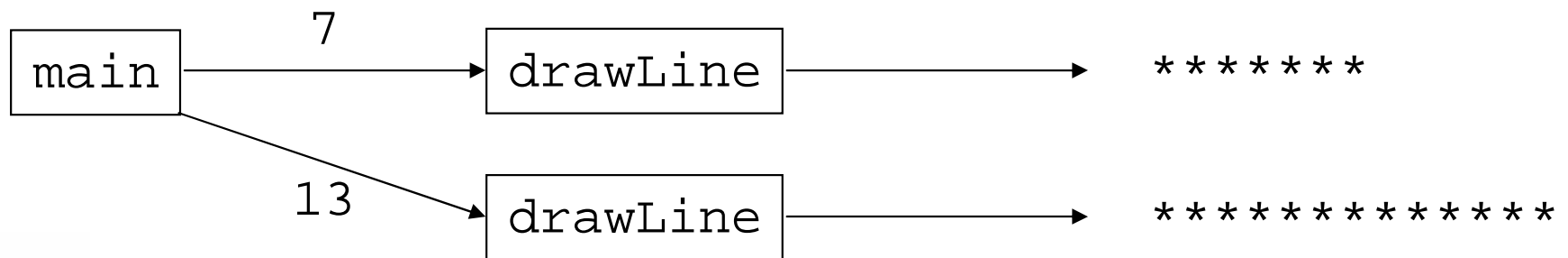
A redundant solution

```
public class Stars1 {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        drawLineOf13Stars();
        drawLineOf7Stars();
        drawLineOf35Stars();
        draw10x3Box();
        draw5x4Box();
    }
    public static void drawLineOf13Stars() {
        for (int i = 1; i <= 13; i++) {
            System.out.print("*");
        }
        System.out.println();
    }
    public static void drawLineOf7Stars() {
        for (int i = 1; i <= 7; i++) {
            System.out.print("*");
        }
        System.out.println();
    }
    public static void drawLineOf35Stars() {
        for (int i = 1; i <= 35; i++) {
            System.out.print("*");
        }
        System.out.println();
    }
    ...
}
```

- The methods at left are redundant.
- Would constants help us solve this problem?
- What would be a better solution?
 - drawLine - A method to draw a line of any number of stars.
 - drawBox - A method to draw a box of any size.

Parameterization

- **parameterized method:** One that is given extra information (e.g. number of stars to draw) when it is called.
- **parameter:** A value passed to a method by its caller.
- Writing parameterized methods requires 2 steps:
 - *declare* the method to accept the parameter
 - *call* the method and pass the parameter value(s) desired



Declaring parameterized methods

- Parameterized method declaration syntax:

```
public static void <name> ( <type> <name> ) {  
    <statement(s)> ;  
}
```

- Example:

```
public static void printSpaces(int count) {  
    for (int i = 1; i <= count; i++) {  
        System.out.print(" ");  
    }  
}
```

- Whenever `printSpaces` is called, the caller must specify how many spaces to print.

Calling parameterized methods

- **passing a parameter:** Calling a parameterized method and specifying a value for its parameter(s).
- Parameterized method call syntax:

<name> (**<expression>**);

- Example:

```
System.out.print( "*" );  
printSpaces(7);  
System.out.print( "**" );  
int x = 3 * 5;  
printSpaces(x + 2);  
System.out.println( "***" );
```

Output:

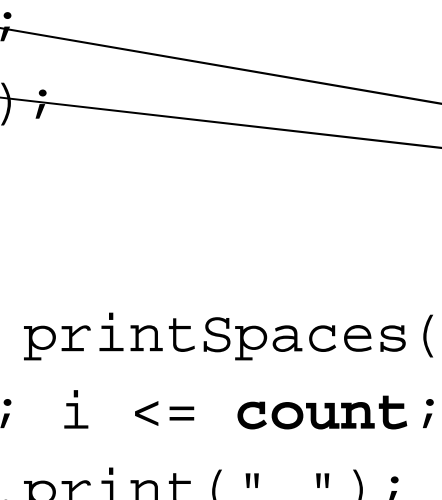
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**

How parameters are passed

- When the parameterized method call executes:
 - the value written is copied into the parameter variable
 - the method's code executes using that value

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    printSpaces(7);  
    printSpaces(13);  
}
```



The diagram illustrates the passing of the value 13 to the printSpaces method. Two arrows originate from the values 7 and 13 in the main method call. The arrow from 7 points to the left, and the arrow from 13 points to the right, both converging on a box containing the value 13.

```
public static void printSpaces(int count) {  
    for (int i = 1; i <= count; i++) {  
        System.out.print(" ");  
    }  
}
```

Value semantics

- **value semantics:** When primitive variables (`int`, `double`) are passed as parameters, their values are copied.
 - Modifying the parameter inside the method will not affect the variable passed in.

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    int x = 23;  
    strange(x);  
    System.out.println("2. x = " + x);    // unchanged  
    ...  
}
```

```
public static void strange(int x) {  
    x = x + 1;  
    System.out.println("1. x = " + x);  
}
```

Output:

```
1. x = 24  
2. x = 23
```

Common errors

- If a method accepts a parameter, it is illegal to call it without passing any value for that parameter.

```
printSpaces();    // ERROR: parameter value required
```

- The value passed to a method must be of the correct type, matching the type of its parameter variable.

```
printSpaces(3.7);    // ERROR: must be of type int
```

- Exercise: Change the Stars program to use a parameterized static method for drawing lines of stars.

Stars solution

```
// Prints several lines of stars.  
// Uses a parameterized method to remove redundancy.  
  
public class Stars2 {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        drawLine(13);  
        drawLine(7);  
        drawLine(35);  
    }  
  
    // Prints the given number of stars plus a line break.  
    public static void drawLine(int count) {  
        for (int i = 1; i <= count; i++) {  
            System.out.print("*");  
        }  
        System.out.println();  
    }  
}
```

Multiple parameters

- Methods can accept multiple parameters.
 - When the method is called, you must pass values for each parameter.

- Multiple parameters declaration syntax:

```
public static void <name> ( <type> <name> ,  
    <type> <name> , ... , <type> <name> ) {  
    <statement(s)> ;  
}
```

- Multiple parameters call syntax:

```
<name> ( <expression> , <expression> , ... , <expression> ) ;
```

Multiple parameters example

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    printNumber(4, 9);  
    printNumber(17, 6);  
    printNumber(8, 0);  
    printNumber(0, 8);  
}  
  
public static void printNumber(int number, int count) {  
    for (int i = 1; i <= count; i++) {  
        System.out.print(number);  
    }  
    System.out.println();  
}
```

Output:

```
4444444444  
171717171717  
  
00000000
```

- Exercise: Write an improved Stars program that draws boxes of stars using parameterized static methods.

Stars solution

```
// Prints several lines and boxes made of stars.  
// Third version with multiple parameterized methods.  
  
public class Stars3 {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        drawLine(13);  
        drawLine(7);  
        drawLine(35);  
        System.out.println();  
        drawBox(10, 3);  
        drawBox(5, 4);  
        drawBox(20, 7);  
    }  
  
    // Prints the given number of stars plus a line break.  
    public static void drawLine(int count) {  
        for (int i = 1; i <= count; i++) {  
            System.out.print("*");  
        }  
        System.out.println();  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

Stars solution, cont'd.

...

```
// Prints a box of stars of the given size.
public static void drawBox(int width, int height) {
    drawLine(width);

    for (int i = 1; i <= height - 2; i++) {
        System.out.print("*");
        printSpaces(width - 2);
        System.out.println("*");
    }

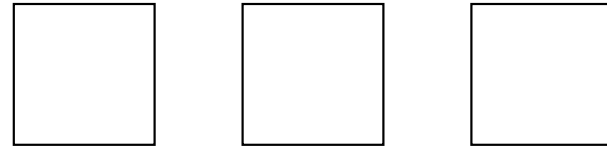
    drawLine(width);
}

// Prints the given number of spaces.
public static void printSpaces(int count) {
    for (int i = 1; i <= count; i++) {
        System.out.print(" ");
    }
}
}
```

Parameter "mystery" problem

- What is the output of the following program?

```
public class Mystery {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        int x = 5, y = 9, z = 2;  
        mystery(z, y, x);  
        System.out.println(x + " " + y + " " + z);  
        mystery(y, x, z);  
        System.out.println(x + " " + y + " " + z);  
    }  
}
```



```
public static void mystery(int x, int z, int y) {  
    x++;  
    y = x - z * 2;  
    x = z + 1;  
    System.out.println(x + " " + y + " " + z);  
}
```

Parameter questions

- Write a method named `printDiamond` that accepts a height as a parameter and prints a diamond figure:

```
*  
* * *  
* * * * *  
* * *  
*
```

- Write a method named `multiplicationTable` that accepts a maximum integer as a parameter and prints a table of multiplication from 1 x 1 up to that integer times itself.
- Write a method named `bottlesOfBeer` that accepts an integer as a parameter and prints the "XX Bottles of Beer" song with that many verses.